No 3

VERY IMPORTANT!

TO THE

MORMON MONEY DIGGERS.

Why do the Mormons rage, and the People imagine a vain thing?

BY JAMES COLIN BREWSTER.

I copy the following from the "Nauvoo Times and Seasons" of December 1st. 1842:—

"NOTICE."

"We have lately seen a Pamphlet, written and published by James C. Brewster, purporting to be one of the Books of Esdras, and to be written by the gift and power of God. We consider it a perfect humbug; and should not have noticed it, had it not been assiduously circulated in several branches of the church. This said Brewster is a minor, but has professed for several years to have the gift of seeing and looking through or into a stone, and has thought that he has discovered money hid in the ground in Kirtland, Ohio. His father and some of our weak brethren, who perhaps have had some confidence in the ridiculous stories that are propagated concerning Joseph Smith, about money digging, have assisted him in his foolish plans, for which they were dealt with by the church—they were at that time suspended, and would have been cut off from the church if they had not promised to desist from their ridiculous and pernicious ways, since which time the family removed to Springfield, in this state, and contrary to their engagement have been seeing, and writing, and prophecying, &c. for which they have been dealt with by the Springfield church. The father of the boy has very frequently applied for an ordination, but has been as frequently denied the privilege, as not being considered a proper person to hold the priest-hood. We have written the above for the information of the brethren, and least there should be any so weak minded as to belive in it, we insert the folowing from the book of Doctrine and Covenants."—

"But behold, verily, verily I say unto thee, no one shall be appointed to receive commandments and revelations in this Church excepting my servant Joseph Smith jr.—for he receiveth them even as Moses; and thou shalt be obedient unto the things which I shall give unto him even as Aaron, to declare faithfully the commandments and revelations with power and authority unto the churches. And again, thou shalt take thy brother Hiram Page between him and thee alone, and tell him that those things which he hath

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written from that stone are not of me, and that Satan deceiveth him; for behold these things have not been appointed unto him, neither shall any thing be appointed unto any of this church contrary to the Church covenants, for all things must be done in order and by common consent in the church by the prayer of faith."

As the writer of this notice did not favor the public directly with his name, I shall not pretend to say who it was, although I have good reason to believe it was written by Joseph Smith, or at least by his directions.

Firstly. The writer says he considers it a perfect humbug; but before the pamphlet was printed the manuscript was taken to Joseph Smith; he had it in his possession six days; and, at that time, he stated that he enquired of the Lord concerning it and could not obtain an answer. Since then, he told certain individuals that he did receive an answer that it was not of God.

Secondly. He says Brewster is a minor, but has professed for several years to have the gift of seeing and looking through or into a stone. Now, as for my "seeing and looking through or into a stone," it is a perfect falsehood, and Joseph Smith and many of the first presidents of the church know it to be false, and at the same time knowing that they could not bring any thing against our moral character have endeavored to injure us by publishing these falsehoods.

Thirdly: And he has thought that he has discovered money hid in the ground in Kirtland, his father and some of our weak brethren who perhaps have had some confidence in the ridiculous stories that are propapated concerning Joseph Smith about money digging, have assisted him in his foolish plans. This is a little nearer the truth than the second statement. The fact is that my father ever regarded money diggers with the utmost contempt, but believing in the Gospel as preached by the Mormons, and, becoming a member of that church, removed to Kirtland, Ohio, While residing at that place Joseph Smith Senr. the Prophet's father, with others of high standing in the church, came to see us, and stated that they knew there was money hid in the earth, that it was our duty to assist in obtaining it, and if we did not the curse of God would rest upou us. We were foolish enough to believe them, not knowing at that time the weakness and folly of those men. They also told us concerning their digging for money in the state of N. Y., and

that the places where the treasures were deposited were discovered by means of the mineral rods and a seeing stone; likewise to prevent the Devil deceiving them they anointed the mineral rods and seeing stones with consecrated oil, and prayed over them in the house of the Lord in Kirtland, and then sent a man into the state of N. Y. to obtain the money that was supposed the mineral rods pointed out, but they found no treasure and returned empty. Soon after this interview, I and my father were requested by J. Smith, Sen'r and Eld. Beaman to come to the house of the Lord. We went in and the door was locked;—after some conversation with J. Smith sen'r, Beaman and Holeman, Eld. Beaman called upon the Lord—they then proceeded to lay their hands upon my head and pronounced a blessing upon me, in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and sealed it up on me by the power of the Holy Priesthood, which they held, J. Smith sen'r then acting as first President of the Church in Kirtland. The prophetic blessing was that I should be a Prophet, a Seer, a Revealer, and Translator, and that I should have power given me of God to discover and obtain the treasures which are hid in the earth. The men, above mentioned, went with me and my father several times in pursuit of the money, but it was not obtained. Joseph Smith sen'r and Beaman, being old and feeble, thought best to remain in the Temple, while the remainder of the party went to dig. John and Asel Smith joined with those who remained in the Temple to pray and continue their supplications until a very late hour; this was repeated several times, and at length afraid of being discovered in the Temple they retired to a barn in a remote part of the town, and continued there the most part of the night, still no treasure was obtained. By this time my father was convinced that we should not succeed, and then gave up the business entirely. All this was carried on privately, being understood only by those concerned. Soon after this my father and his family, Eld. Norris and his family, in company with several others, members of the church, who were knowing to what had transpired, were dealt with by the High Council and Church in Kirtland— Joseph Smith sen'r then acting as first President of the Church, and his brother John Smith first President of the High Council in Kirtland. The Brewsterites, as we were called by the Church, were all condemned, although many of the Counsellors, by whose vote a

were condemned, had been engaged with us in the money digging business. The writer in the "Times and Seasons" now says that my father was assisted by some of "our weak brethren." This is true, but he must remember that the names of those weak brethren are as follows:—Joseph Smith sen'r, John and Asel Smith, Eld. Beaman then President of the Elders' Corum, Joshua Holeman, and many others, of high standing in the Mormon Church, whose names we can produce if occasion requires. He also says it was those who had "some confidence in the ridiculous stories that are propagated concerning Joseph Smith about money digging." The following are the reasons we had for believing the stories. In Kirtland, Joseph Smith sen'r, the Prophet's father, said in Council: "I know more about money digging, than any man in this generation, for I have been in the business more than thirty years." Father Smith, in private conversation with my father, told many particulars, which happened in N. Y. where the money digging business was carried on to a great extent by the Smith family. The writer of the article in the "Times and Seasons" calls it a ridiculous and pernicious practice. I would ask him who was the author of this practice among the Mormons? If he has a good memory, he will remember the house that was rented in the city of Boston, with the expectation of finding a large sum of money buried in or near the cellar. If he has forgotten these things, I have not. And, if he is not satisfied with what I have written, he can have the remainder shortly.

Fourthly. The writer of the article says, that contrary to their engagements they have been seeing, writing, and prophecying, for which they have been dealt with by the Springfield church. The father of the boy has frequently requested an ordination, but has as frequently been denied the privilege, as not being considered a proper person to hold the priest-hood. We was dealt with by the Springfield church. But the only thing found against us was that we had not joined that branch of the church, and supposed we had not acted wisely in all things. As for the ordination, my father has been ordained by the order of JOSEPH SMITH, without his requesting it, under the hands of J. Adams, High Priest and Patriarch; Elder Mariam, President—both of the Springfield church.

Fifthly. To close the notice, the writer adds "we have written the above for the information of the brethren." I would

only say that the information it contains is very incorrect, and I would advise the Editors of the "Times and Seasons" not to publish any more information concerning us, except it is written by one who regards the truth.

I have written the above that the people may know who the "weak brethren" are that assisted us in the money digging business. The Mormons may deny it, but every word it contains is true; and I might have written much more, but I think it unnecessary. But if the Mormons publish another line of falsehood concerning us, they shall have the history of the money diggers from the beginning.

Below will be found my father's certificate, which goes to corroborate the statements I have given.

JAMES COLIN BREWSTER.

I, Z. H. Brewster, do hereby certify, that the above account of the money digging business is true. In the year 1837, in the month of May or June, we commenced the money digging under the kind care and protection of Joseph Smith sen'r, then first President of the church of Latter Day Saints, and, according to my best recollection, the foregoing statements are strictly true. I also believe the Gospel that is attended with the power and gifts revealed in the New Testament, and Book of Mormon. I also believe that God works by whomsoever he will, and reveals himself to all who faithfully serve him. I have no reason to believe that Nauvoo is a place of safety, but have every reason to believe that California is. I also believe that the pure in heart, and those who are desirous to serve God, will soon leave Nauvoo, that God may destroy the wicked and uugodly inhabitants thereof. I believe that Joseph Smith was called and chosen of God to bring forth the Book of Mormon, and to establish the church of Latter Day saints. But I do not believe that the spirit of God will remain with him since he has forsaken the ways of truth and righteousness, and is now preaching and practicing those things which he in the beginning taught to be the works and inventions and secret combinations of the Devil, (see Book of Mormon, 3d Edition—pages 320 and 538.) I also believe that all liars, adulterers, fornicators, and whoremongers shall have their part in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the anger of the Lord.

Z. H. BREWSTER.

Our Belief—California, or the Country beyond the wilderness of Deluca.

We believe the Gospel that was preached by Jesus Christ and his Apostles, which is contained in the New Testament and Book of Mormon. We believe that God has as much power now to instruct, direct, support and defend his saints, as in former times; and I am willing to believe what he reveals to me, although it may be called a humbug by those who consider

themselves in high standing in the Mormon church: I regard it not, but will believe God and not man; and, therefore, will retire beyond the wilderness of Deluca, to the land of California, of which the following is a short, but correct description, which has been showed to me by the Gift and power of God.—

The following description is taken from one of the Books of Esaras, for we have ten of those Books, in manuscript, which we would publish if, we had sufficient means.

A DESCRIPTION OF BASHAN OR CALIFORNIA.

Climate. The climate of this country is generally mild and temperate, though very different in various parts. In the Northern part of Caledonia, the winters are severe, in summer the weather is mild, there being few storms: In some places the air is very dry, but there is much rain in the Spring. The country being very hilly renders the air warmer in winter and cooler in summer than countries in the same latitude; along the sea shore the air is very dry; further south it becomes warmer, it being warmer in summer and not as cold in winter as in Caledonia. Some of the mountains, being a mile high, are destitute of snow only a few weeks in the summer, which together with the sea breezes, renders the weather mild and agreeable. In the southern part of California the heat in summer is excessive, there being scarce any winter in the valleys.

Native Productions.—The native productions of this country are very numerous. The jet berry is found in Caledonia, growing on a bush ten or twelve feet high, is a small black berry of a delicious flavor. The Quinta, or wild squash, which grows on a vine 20 or 30 feet long—the fruit is small not exceeding 3 or 4 inches in length; though the vine has a disagreeable smell, yet it bears well and is very good food. There is an abundance of wild plumbs, and papaws, otherwise called quishpe. Along the banks of the river Bashan is a very singular plant called list, which is excellent food when wilted and fried in butter. At the mouth of the river Bashan is a shrub bearing small berries; there is also, wild potatoes, and corn of an inferior quality. To the south of this is found wild rice, sugar cane, and tomatoes, besides a great variety of grapes, among which is the vine of Aulesius.

Mountains.—The mountains of this country are very numerous. The whole of Caledonia is filled with detached ridges and

summits, some of which are from 2.000 to 6,000 feet high.

Forests.—The forests of this country are principally in Caledonia. The principal trees are birch, beech, oak, chesnut, hickory, and walnut; in the northern parts are low fir, cedar, and pine, besides these there is a great number of smaller trees of less value.

Animals.—The animals of this extensive country are as follows—the buffalo, which go in herds of several thousands; the common deer, and antelope, the wild goat that lives chiefly upon the mountains; the wild hogs, and horses are found in great abundance on the plains, and in the forest the cantacula are found in some places. The elk is common to this country, and the moose is seldom found. The ferocious animals are the red, grey and black wolves, the black and grisley bears, panthers, two species of wild-cats, besides a great variety of smaller animals, and the widner, a strong, large and ferocious beast.

Mineral Springs.—There is an Iron spring in Kent, and one of Copper in the same mountain, and a medical spring near the mouth of the Bashan, for the cure of almost every disease.—There are various other medical springs in this country, many of which are of great use to those who shall go there.

Fishes.—The principal fish of the rivers are shad, trout, catfish, and eels, besides these is the vent, a fish 3 or 4 feet in length, the simda, which is 6 or 7 feet long, besides a great variety of fish unknown to other waters; the elt is a delicious food; the cond is about 20 inches in length, and will weigh from 10 to 15 pounds. There is a great number of shell fish in the Gulf. On the coast of Caladonia is herring in great abundance; also a species of small whale, which furnishes excellent oil.

Birds, and Wild Fowls.—The principal birds of this country are the same, as are common in the same latitude. There are, however, found here two species of parrots, the gier eagle, and the commorant, and several species of smaller birds unknown to the rest of the world, many of which are very beautiful. The wild fowls are as follows—wild turkeys, hens, ducks, geese, pints, and wildoes, and several species of smaller water fowls.

Serpents.—Several species of serpents are found in this country, but none are venemous, except the rattle snake which is found only in a very few places.

Minerals.—The minerals of this country are very numerous. Iron is found in the mountains of Kent; lead is found North of

Camba and also in several places near the Rosco (Rio Martires;) zink and copper near the Calmenta (Yaqui river,) There is a bed of silver near the center of the Gulf—there are beds of slate, stone, and coal—there are quarios of fine marble, some of it is white, others brown, red, and clouded with blue and white. Several other species of stone are found of the best quality. There is a quarry of native burr-stone near the mouth of the Bashan. There are also other minerals in this country.

Natural Curiosities.—The natural curiosities of this country are very numerous. The principal of these are the plains, some of which are 50 or 60 miles in extent, covered with grass, clover, and grain. Some of the plains are covered with large double clover of a very singular appearance. Others are covered with a short fine grass: There are two or three species of grain found, which, when cultivated, is excellent food for cattle. In some places groves and springs of water are found, but for the most part the plains are without water. This country is full of curiosities, which present a very singular appearance. There is a small lake on one of the mountains of California, which is eight hundred feet above the level of the sea; there is also a rock on which characters are engraved; there are also many singular hills in this country which cannot be mentioned in this Book. There are in many places ruins of cities, and fortifications; there are the ruins of a fortification near the mouth of the Bashan; also the remains of a city at the mouth of the Rosco, and in several other parts of the country.

Grain.—There is in this country a grain, very much resembling rye; it grows in wet land, and if mown in June, it will be sufficient for the food of all kinds of cattle. There is another somewhat resembling wheat, but is a much coarser grain; it is found scattered about on the plains; the third species is smaller and much better than the other two, it is found in abundance on the boundry between the states of Calmenta, and Caspa, also in the Country of Luthina, and several places along the river Bashan, or Colorado of the West.

Divisions.—This country is divided into many small states; there are also many mountains, lakes, rivers, gulfs, bays, islands, and harbours, which cannot be mentioned in this Book.

Extent of this Country—This country measures from the lower point of Vintress to the Northern boundry of Ominda, one thousand nine hundred and fifty miles, and from the mouth

of the Rosco Eastward to the mountains of Vintory, [Rocky Mountains,] is one thousand miles:

They that are saved, shall go there; they shall build, and inherit, plant, and eat the fruit thereof; they shall not fear Satan, save it be to hate his works, and fear to do his will, for he is the enemy of all righteousness, and will destroy the righteous if he can. In this land the wicked shall have no power, for God created this land for the righteous, and they that will seek to keep his commandments shall go there, and they shall preach to the Islands of the sea, and to the nations afar off, and they shall go to Bashan, which is in Bethsula, [North America,] by the sea side; the wicked shall be afraid, for death shall come into the land of the ungodly.

Many signs shall be seen in the heavens before the destruction of this nation, [the United States of America;] there shall be thundering, and lightnings, and storms; the earth shall tremble, and all men shall be afraid, for the day shall become dark as night, and the night light as day; things shall be seen in the sky which will fill men with fear, and their hearts shall fail them because of the things which shall be seen.

There shall be blood, fire, vapor and smoke; but they that fear God, and work righteousness shall be preserved from all evil, they shall not be destroyed by the wicked, neither cut off by the ungodly, therefore serve God that ye may be saved, for they that serve Satan shall surely fall, they shall not remain with the saints of the most high God, who ruleth and reigneth forever, and who is strong above all others.

THE SONGS OF ENOCK, WRITTEN FOR THE SAINTS

1 There is a place beyond the hills,
Where peace and plenty flow,
Where rolling waves the valley fills,
And fishes play below.

2 Where beauty clothes the spreading plain,
And decks the varied hills;
But there unknown it long has lain—
The mountain and the rills—

3 The oak that waves along the shore,
In greenest verdure drest,
That say to man now weep no more,
But be forever blest.

4 There plains extend in glittering pride
Along the blissful shore,
While through the air the songsters glide
They sing but sigh no more.

5 Soon war shall rage about this land
With all its terrors reign,
And who in all the earth shall stand
For thousands shall be slain.

TRUST NOT IN WORDS.

1 Trust not in them that say believe,
For surely they will you deceive;
Trust not in words
For they are vain,
For friendship's end is death and pain.

2 Trust not in promises for lies they be,
Bind not yourselves but stand forth free,
Trust not in friends
For they are vain,
For all that's joined shall be rent in twain.

3 Trust not in arms for weak they be,
Trust not in speed for you cannot flee,
Trust not to hide
For you shall be found
When stern destruction sweeps the ground.

4 Trust not in ships to escape on sea,
Trust not in walls though high they be,
Trust not in towers,
In bolts or bars,
In rising hills or lofty spars.

5 Trust not in strength of walls or towers,
Trust not to hide in the thickest bowers,
But trust in him

Who rules on high,
Who rides above the stormy sky.

6 For he will guide to the Western main,
To the land which has long in darkness lain,
Where the rivers flow
And the forest bend,
There to this land the saints he'll send.

7 Where the wide spreading waters reflect the blue sky
And refreshing cool zephyrs forever draw nigh
Where birds play in the air
And the fish in the deep,
And in the rough mountains the hard minerals sleep.

[plains
8 Where the mountains, the vales, and the wide spreading
Are covered with verdure, with choice herbs and grains,
Where the righteous may dwell
And saints have their fill
Along the broad river beyond the high hill.

The sun is greater than the moon,
Yea greater than the earth;
The time shall come, yea very soon,
When there shall be an end of mirth,
For the sun shall shed his hottest rays,
And there shall be no rain
Until the end of eighty days,
And there shall be grief and pain.
For a sign of this a star shall shine
Low in the Western skies,
Although it shall be seen to set,
It shall not seem to rise.
Therefore, prepare when ye this sign behold,
Shine in the West, like a bright diamond gold,
For want shall come upon this wicked land,
And none but those who fear the Lord can stand.
Sign after sign shall fill the evening sky,
First in the East, the West, and North, the cry
Repentance to the land and bid it sigh,
For fears and evils surely shall increase.
As honor, love and beauty do decrease.

[The following quotation is extracted from the Encyclopædia of Geography, Volume III, page 195:]

"The inhabitants of the country of California are mostly native Indians, who are divided into a number of small tribes—the Caguenches, Apaches, Nabajoes, Moquis, Colimes, Serris, Tribus, Papagos, Jumas, Pimas-Gilenus, Apacherians, and several others. These Indians subsist chiefly by agriculture—raising corn, and potatoes. The Apaches are the only warlike Nation in this country, and they are destitute of fire-arms, using bows and arrows only. The Jesuites formerly had a great number of Missionary stations in this country, but these are now mostly all deserted. The stone buildings erected by the Jesuites are nearly entire—lemons, oranges, limes, olives and citrons, which they planted are still growing there."

Some have said that there are so many Indians in the country of California, that it could not contain any more inhabitants, but this is a mistake; the whole number of Indians in old California is 12,000, and in Upper California 35,000, and in the country South and East of the Rio Colorado, there is but one Indian to the square mile.

The route, we shall take to California, will pass through the Tribus, and Pimas-Gilenus Indians, and settle at or near the mouth of the Rio Colorado, near the ruins of the Missionary station Las Junias, among the Caguenches

We do not expect any difficulty with the Indians, for we intend to cultivate peace with all nations and not war. The people may regard this as a speculating scheme, but this is not the fact; our intention is to serve God and him alone, and I expect to give an account before him of the truth of what I have written.

Destruction and death and dismay are at hand,
And shall soon spread their terrors throughout every land,
Save the fair land of peace, California by name,
Whose boundary is marked by the wide Western main.

Then arise and away to the land of the West,
Where the Saints and the Righteous forever may rest,
For God is the King and the leader of all,
The saints who trust in him they never shall fall.

JAMES COLIN BREWSTE[R]

Springfield, Ill. March 20, 1843.